IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A signal sequencing control means for an electronic device, said sequencing control means comprising:

an electronic circuit driven to generate the sequence of control signals in a forward and reverse direction along ~~the~~ a same circuit path; and

timing means to allow a sequence of control signals to be activated in a pre-determined order for operation of the device and deactivated in a reverse order for disabling the device.

2. (Previously amended) A signal sequencing control means according to claim 1 wherein each signal is controlled by a resistor/capacitor combination.

3. (Previously amended) A signal sequencing control means according to claim 2 wherein the control signals are controlled by a network of said resistor/capacitor combinations and the network provides the activation/deactivation of the signals in sequence at pre-determined time intervals.

4. (Previously amended) A signal sequencing control means according to claim 3 wherein the resistors of the network are provided in series.

5. (Previously amended) A signal sequencing control means according to claim 1 wherein said sequence of control signals is being operated via at least one logic gate.

6. (Previously amended) A signal sequencing control means according to claim 5 wherein at least one of said logic gate is a Schmidt Logic Gate.

7. (Currently amended) A signal sequencing control means according to claim 1 wherein the circuit path includes at least one logic gate and voltage is driven by at least one of said gates along a circuit path through a series of resistors in a first direction via a diode at the start of the resistor path, and a reverse diode being provided at the end of the resistor path to drive ~~the~~ a voltage through the resistors in the reverse direction.

8. (Currently amended) A signal sequencing control means according to claim 1 wherein said sequence of signals in a ~~forwards~~ forward direction is different to the sequence of signals in a reverse direction and the control signals in the forwards and reverse direction ~~is~~ are driven using the same circuit path.

9. (Previously amended) A signal sequencing control means according to claim 1 wherein said electronic device is a smart card.

10. (Previously amended) A signal sequencing control means according to claim 9 wherein said smart card has at least three lines which need to be activated in a pre-determined order for operation of said device and deactivated in a reverse order for disabling said device.

11. (Currently amended) A signal sequencing control means for a smart card interface, said

interface comprising:

an electronic circuit driven to generate the sequence of control signals in a forwards and reverse direction along ~~the~~ a same circuit path; and

timing means to allow a sequence of control signals to be activated in a pre-determined order for operation of the card and deactivated in a reverse order for disabling the card..

12. (Currently amended) A smart card reading apparatus, said apparatus for reading/receiving and processing signals for a smart card, said reading apparatus comprising:

an electronic circuit driven to generate the sequence of control signals in a forwards and reverse direction along ~~the~~ a same circuit path; and

a timing means to allow a sequence of control signals to be activated in a pre-determined order for operation of the card and deactivated in a reverse order for disabling the card.